# Questions & Answers

- Q. What information is available at the Open House on July 24?
- A. Caltrans staff from several functional units, including Design, Traffic, Right of Way, and Environmental will be available to answer questions about the project. Maps and plans will be on display, as will copies of the draft environmental document (EIS/EIR).
- Q. What type of information is in the Draft EIS/EIR?
- A. The Draft EIS/EIR describes the project, discusses its environmental impacts, and proposes measures to avoid, reduce, or eliminate the impacts. A few of the issues discussed in the document are residential and business relocations, wetlands, wildlife habitat, water quality, floodplain, noise, and cultural resources.
- Q. What happens next?
- A. After reviewing all comments from the public, Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will select an alternative and prepare the final environmental document. After the Final EIS/EIR is approved, Caltrans will begin final design work and right of way acquisition, leading to construction of the project.

### Where You Come In

Your comments on this proposed project are important to us.

You are invited to attend the public hearing that is being held in an open house format so that you can discuss this project with Caltrans and FHWA staff.

July 24, 2002 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. at Willits City Hall, 1111 East Commercial Street, Willits

The environmental document is available for review at the open house and at the following locations:

- Willits Library, 390 E. Commercial Street
- Willits Environmental Center, 316
   South Main Street
- Fort Bragg Library, 499 East Laurel Street, Fort Bragg
- Ukiah Library, 105 N. Main St. Ukiah
- Caltrans District 1, 1656 Union Street, Eureka
- Caltrans Website:
   http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/
   departments/environmental/willits/
   index.htm

You may submit you comments at the open house or mail them postmarked no later than **August 10**, **2002** to:

Cher Daniels, Chief
Office of Environmental Management S-1
Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive
Sacramento, CA 95833
Attn: Nancy MacKenzie
nancy\_mackenzie@dot.ca.gov

# Willits Bypass

Public Open House



#### **OPEN HOUSE**

July 24, 2002 4 pm - 8 pm Willits City Hall

### **Public Comment Period**

Begins June 10, 2002 Ends August 10, 2002

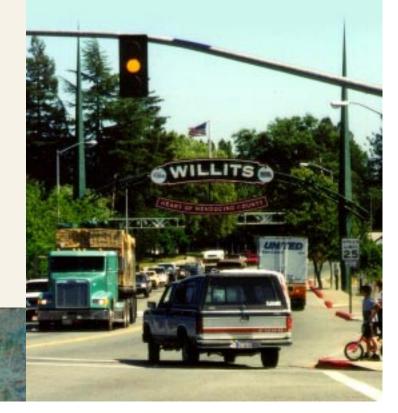


Gray Davis Governor

Maria Contreras-Sweet Secretary, Business, Transportation and Housing Authority

> Jeff Morales Director, Caltrans

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# **Project Purpose and Need**

US 101, functionally classified a principal arterial route, is the single north-south route serving the entire length of coastal California and is crucial in the commerce of northwestern California. On US 101, trucks

and passenger vehicles transport goods and people to and from the many communities throughout the region. In the Willits area, US 101 serves an in-



creasingly heavy commuter, recreational, and commercial traffic demand.

Lack of capacity and congestion on US 101 result in delay and lengthy traffic queues within the project limits. At times, Caltrans Maintenance forces have been called on to warn motorists, several miles away that they are approaching a lengthy backup.

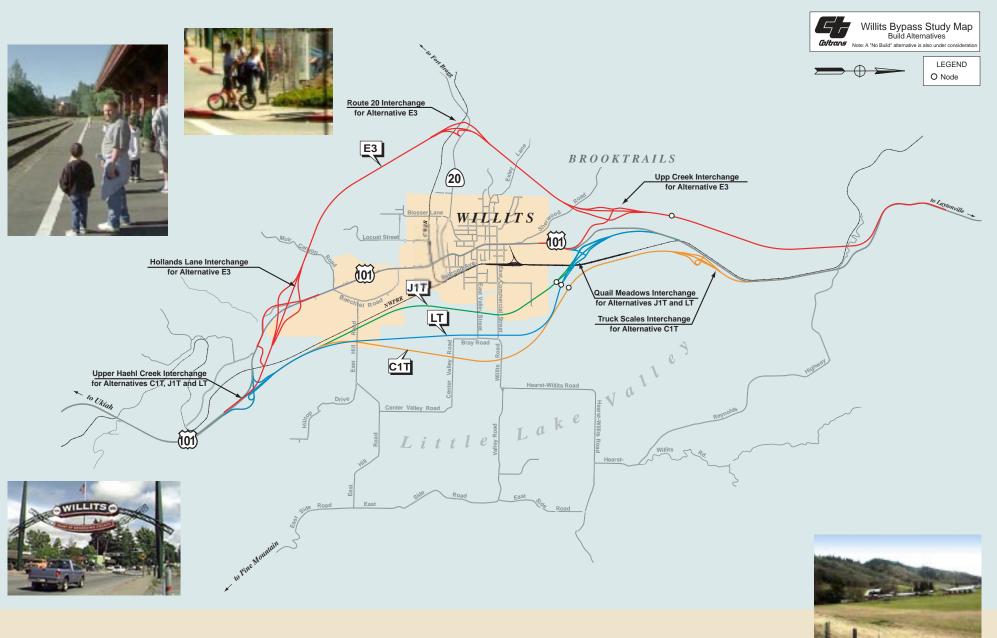
US 101 has numerous lane configurations within the project limits. Through the downtown area, US 101 is a curvilinear two-lane highway, and the right of way is relatively narrow. Widening the existing facility is not feasible as much of the commercial development would have to be demolished to make room for the highway.

## **Project Description**

Caltrans and FHWA are proposing a bypass of the City of Willits to relieve congestion, reduce delays, and improve safety for interregional traffic on US 101. The project limits begin about 0.8 mile south of Haehl Creek Overhead and end about 1.5 miles north of Reynolds Highway, a distance of approximately 9.2 miles.

## **Proposed Alternatives**

Alternative CIT proposes a 4-lane freeway on new alignment. This alternative is the easternmost valley alternative and includes two interchanges, one at Upper Haehl Creek and one near the old Truck Scales.



Alternative E3 proposes a 4-lane freeway on new alignment through the hills west of Willits. This alternative includes three interchanges, one at Hollands Lane, another at SR 20 west of town, and the third at Upp Creek.

### Alternative J1T proposes a 4-lane

freeway on new alignment. This alternative skirts the eastern city limits and includes two interchanges, one at Upper Haehl Creek and one at Quail Meadows.

Alternative LT proposes a 4-lane freeway on new alignment. This alternative's alignment falls between C1T and J1T and includes two new interchanges, one at Upper Haehl Creek and one at Quail Meadows.

No Build Alternative also has been evaluated. Reviewing the impact of no improvements to US 101 is required as part of the environmental process, and is useful in comparing alternatives to each other.

### **A Nodal Analysis**

was used by Caltrans staff to study

each build alternative, which allows a segment of one alternative to be combined with a segment of another alternative to create a hybrid. In most cases, the environmental document displays data for each alternative by segment.